WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 MARCH 1998

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

HIDDEN ORIGINAL DOORWAY OF MoMS DISCOVERED, HOUSE NOW THOUGHT BUILT IN JUST TWO PHASES

By Susan Wineberg

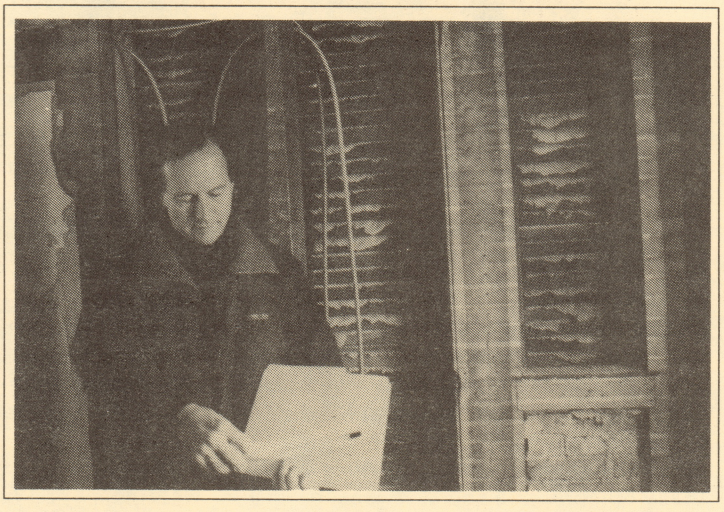


Photo by Susan Wineberg

Architect Marc Rueter in front of exposed lath where hidden doorway found.

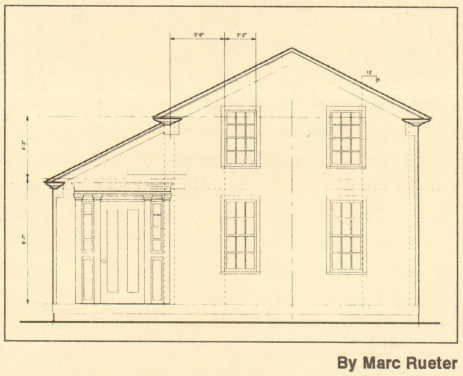
While researching a paper I gave at the Pioneer America Society Conference in Dearborn last October, I stumbled upon an interesting discovery in the west wall of what is to be the Gift Shop of the Museum.

Since I was looking at the construction methods of the 1830s and measuring the distances between the studs in the outer walls, I was astonished to discover two pieces of milled, beaded and painted wood that were clearly not studs but were parts of a former doorway.

With the help of local architect, Marc Rueter, and our carpenter, Lee Rohrer, we removed the plaster from this wall in order to uncover the entire doorway.

What we found was a very large doorway, with two sidelights containing double hung windows, and surprisingly in the wing of the original structure rather than in the main portion.

It is the only example of this kind of doorway that anyone knows of in Michigan. It is hard to imagine today with the "new" 1839 wing built in front of it, that the original (1835) house was a gable fronted structure, rather than the current gable-sided structure one sees today from Main Street.



By Marc Rueter

Conjectural drawing of what original front of MoMS house looked like before two-story addition that today faces Main Street.

A sketch by Marc illustrates what the house probably looked like before the front portion was built. If you imagine this looked like the back of the house today, you get some idea of its original configuration.

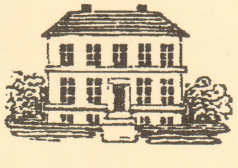
Marc also has ascertained through many measurements and observations, that the museum was built in only two phases, not four as had been thought up until now. He has written a three page memo to this effect if anyone is interested in the particulars.

We also discovered some pencil graffiti on the door frame which appeared to read, "J. Q. Hay." Unfortunately no date accompanied it but it surely must have been written between 1835 and 1839.

We were hoping there would be some way to leave the doorway exposed but, alas, we need all this space for the gift shop displays. Before covering the old framing with drywall, we measured and photographed all aspects of this find.

We even signed our names on the door frame and left a time capsule inside the wall with memorabilia relating to the WCHS and the Museum effort. Perhaps we will draw an outline of the doorway on the new drywall, so at least we can interpret this feature when we are finally open to the public.

And the final piece of good news is that my paper will be published in the Pioneer America Society Transactions sometime this summer. So, our museum will be famous!



EARLY MALLS THE TOPIC, ARBORLAND THE PLACE SUNDAY, MARCH 15

"The Development of America's early Malls and Commercial Strips," will be the topic of the WCHS meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday , March 15.

Darin Von Stein, a graduate of the Historic Preservation Program at Eastern Michigan University, will present a detailed slide show of the history and evolution of the commercial strips, malls and the development of store fronts in mid-20th century.

The presentation will be at Arborland Consumer Mall, Ann Arbor's first mall. Enter either mall entrance. Signs will be posted saying to meet in store space across from elevator and Beany Town.

The program is open to the public, free of charge. Refreshments will be served.

APPRAISAL EVENT SET SATURDAY, APRIL 25

WCHS will again sponsor an appraisal event from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, April 25 at Dixboro United Methodist Church hall. An appraiser from DuMouchelle Galleries in Detroit will be on hand to evaluate items.

Each one may have up to three items that they can carry in appraised. Written appraisal, $15 each item, verbal appraisal, $10.

NANCY BRYK JOINS BOARD

Nancy Bryk, a curator at Greenfield Village/ Henry Ford Museum, has just joined the WCHS Board.

At the Village Nancy is in charge of the furnishings of many of the exhibits including the Henry Ford birthplace.

Born in Pontiac and raised in Birmingham, she attended the U-M and has degrees in history of art and American culture. She moved to Ann Arbor in 1978 and has been active in Burns Park Players.

In addition to raising two children and restoring her home on Woodlawn, Nancy also teaches in the Historic Preservation Program at EMU. Welcome, Nancy.

WCHS HAS LOUIS DOLL'S BOOK ABOUT GLAZIER

WCHS inadvertently omitted from the list of books for sale on the blue insert in the February *Impressions* Louis W. Doll's book, *Less Than Immortal: The Rise and Fall of Frank Porter Glazier of Chelsea, Michigan.*

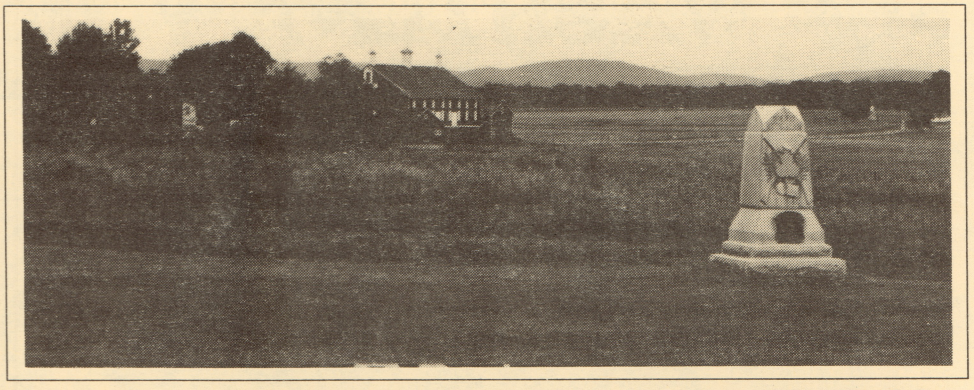
The books are available at general meetings or by mail for an added $3 postage and handling fee. Prof. Doll's book sells for $25. To order by mail send check or money order to: Washtenaw County Historical Society, Post Office Box 3336, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336.

Information: (734) 663-2379 or 662-9092.

CODORI FARM AT GETTYSBURG

FROM FARMLAND TO BATTLEFIELD TO BURIAL GROUND IN THREE DAYS

By Pam Newhouse



Photos courtesy of Pam Newhouse

Codori farm at Gettysburg (right). View looking west toward Seminary Ridge, the Confederate position at Gettysburg. Monument to 7th Michigan Infantry left foreground.

I have long been fascinated with what happened to people whose lands became Civil War battlefields. And never was there a more intriguing property to me than the Codori Farm on Emmitsburg Road in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania which ended up in the middle of what is popularly known as Pickett's Charge at the Battle of Gettysburg.

Proposals are accepted annually from the Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg, a private Gettysburg Battlefield support organization, for a Summer Scholar research grant. The recipient lives in Gettysburg for a summer while working on a battlefield-related project.

My proposal was: To research and submit a historical report on the Codori Farm located in the heart of the battlefield, and its owners, the Codori family. I wanted to find the answers to these questions: Who were the Codoris and how long had they owned the farm? The name seemed Italian—what was an Italian family doing in this predominantly German part of Pennsylvania? Where were the Codoris during the battle? Who else lived there? What happened to this farm on July 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 1863 and after? Did the Codoris remain in Gettysburg after the war?

I was awarded the grant last spring and spent last summer in Gettysburg. Today I'll share what I found with you, beginning with the land itself.

In 1681, Charles II, King of England, granted to William Penn a 30,000,000 acre tract of land in America which Penn named Pennsylvania (meaning "Penn's Woods"). As proprietor, he was granted broad powers over those who would live there

Penn, a Quaker, would also grant his people more personal rights than most Englishmen enjoyed, and Pennsylvania ultimately became the freest of the 13 American colonies.

There was substantial religious freedom, no military obligations and taxes were low. It is understandable why Pennsylvania became a popular destination for immigrants.

After Penn died in 1718, the proprietorship was awarded to his family, his three sons taking over from their mother in 1727.

A constant source of frustration for the Penns was the ongoing boundary dispute between themselves and the Baltimores, proprietors of Maryland. King George consequently ordered the squabbling to cease and a final boundary line to be surveyed, which was done in 1739.

However, it was surveyed again in 1765 by Mason and Dixon and the line wasn't proclaimed in force until 1774. It then became the southern boundary of what is now Adams County and of an area within which was called the "Manor of Maske."

Manors were settlements reminiscent of land owning practices of feudal times. Within these manors land could be leased, or if sold at the whim of the proprietor, at a different and possibly higher price than that of non-manor land.

The Penns created eighty manors in Pennsylvania during the time of their ownership. The guidelines for establishing a manor were threefold; First, manors were to constitute about ten percent of a particular area open for settlement. Second, they were to be laid out on the best available land. Third, they were to be warranted and surveyed before or soon after settlement.

Scotch-Irish settlers began moving into the Cumberland Valley area, including the Manor of Maske, in the mid 1730s. In 1741, Thomas Penn directed that a manor containing 30,000 acres be surveyed on the branches of Marsh Creek on the west side of the Susquehanna River. It was to be six miles wide, twelve miles long, and was named the "Manor of Maske" after an estate of a Penn relative in York, England.

However, when the Penn's surveyor tried to survey the individual properties in 1741, he was threatened by feisty Scotch-Irish settlers there who didn't want their land to be part of a manor. The surveyor complained in a letter to Thomas Penn:

> The inhabitants are got into such Terms, that it is as much as a man's Life is worth to go amongst them, for they gathered together in Companies, and go into Arms every time they Expect I am any where near about, with full resolution to kill or cripple me, or any other person, who shall attempt to Lay out a manor there.

The settlers perhaps felt once their land was surveyed to be part of a manor they would then have to pay for it. So the standoff continued. However, the disputes that took place among the early settlers and the Penns would pale against what happened on this land in 1863: except for the East Cavalry Field engagement and several small skirmishes elsewhere, all of the fighting of the Battle of Gettysburg took place within the boundaries of the colonial-era Manor of Maske.

The individual manor property which by the time of the Battle of Gettysburg had become the Codori Farm, had some of the same boundaries in 1863 as when it was first surveyed in 1789.

The first listed recipient of a Penn deed to the property was Samuel Sloan (Deputy Surveyor for the Penns). In 1798, Sloan had 236 acres with "1 dwelling, old logs, 35 x 17 2 story 4 windows 12 lights, 1 log barn 60 x 30, a Cabin 20 x 18."

It is unknown where on the property the log house was located. Emmitsburg Road, along which the present (brick) house on the Codori property is now situated is mentioned in 1803 in the context of Samuel Sloan receiving $28.75 "for damages sustained by a public road passing through his land."

The property was sold to Michael Clarkson in 1833, and in 1854 Clarkson sold it to Nicholas Codori. This sale consisted of 111 acres east of the Emmitsburg Road. This included an eight-acre pie-shaped piece of land used as a woodlot.

The local newspaper stated that at this time the property included "... a 2 story log house, frame stable, and other outbuildings, a well of water and an orchard." This would mean that Nicholas Codori was probably the owner who had the present brick house built on the property sometime between 1854 and 1863, when this brick

structure was well-documented by the armies who were present on the farm.

In 1861 Nicholas Codori purchased the 66-acre, pie-shaped piece of land west of the Emmitsburg Road. This was the other part of the original Manor of Maske property owned by Sloan. Today one corner of it is the site of the Virginia monument which is purportedly the place where Lee watched Pickett's division assault the Union army on Cemetery Ridge behind the Codori house on July 3, 1863.

One last purchase in 1863 rounded out Nicholas Codori's Cumberland Township holdings at the time of the Civil War. This was the 15-acre piece which adjoined the property that Codori had purchased two years earlier

Who was Nicholas Codori? The Codoris were not Italian. They lived in Hottviller, France (a part of France which is now Germany) and the name there was spelled "Cordary." As often happened, the name came to be spelled another way—in this case, "Codori," after their arrival in this country.

There were four Codori boys and four girls. The oldest boy was Antoine, known as "Anthony" here, and the youngest was Nicholas. Jean George, later known as George was the second youngest.

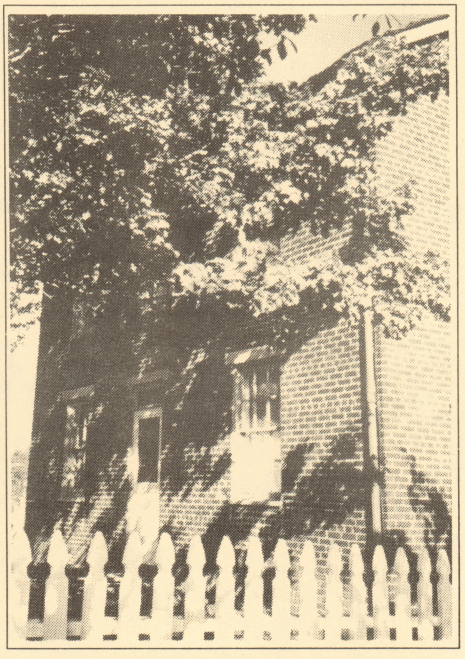
For reasons yet undiscovered, George and Nicholas left France in 1828 and came to Gettysburg. George was 22 and Nicholas was 19. Both married within the next seven years, and Nicholas particularly, prospered by first apprenticing himself to a butcher, and then going into business for himself

By 1843 he had enough means to purchase one of the oldest and finest houses in town, on York Street, just down from the town square. This is where the family lived until Nicholas's death in the 1870s. Thus, Nicholas's Emmitsburg Road farm, ever after known as "The Codori Farm," was never a Codori family residence.

In 1850 George and Nicholas's older brother, Anthony, (now age 56), immigrated to Gettysburg with his wife and five children. One of these was Catherine Codori Staub and her husband John Staub. Their descendants believe that Catherine and John were the tenants on the Codori Farm at the time of the battle.

The Battle of Gettysburg took place on July 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 1863 between the Union Army of the Potomac, under Gen. George Meade, and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, commanded by Gen. Robert E. Lee.

The Confederates were in an exuberant mood, having soundly beaten the Army of the Potomac the previous month at Chancellorsville in northern Virginia. It was time, they felt, to take the war onto northern soil. Gen. Lee was absolutely



Codori farm house.

convinced at this time that the Lord was on his side and victory here was a foregone conclusion.

This belief would in some way impair his judgment and the result would be disastrous for his army and, ultimately, for the whole Confederacy.

In mid-morning, on July 1st, Gen. John Reynolds's First Corps rushed up the Emmitsburg Road from Maryland to support Gen. John Buford's Cavalry, which was barely holding Confederate Gen. Henry Heth's Infantry at bay on the Chambersburg Road northwest of Gettysburg. The Union column contained 8,000 men and was several miles long.

The famed "Iron Brigade," including the 24th Michigan, was among the first to arrive in Gettysburg. As they approached the Codori Farm, they heard gunfire to their northwest and were ordered to move on the double quick across the Codori fields west of the road and up towards McPherson's Ridge.

The Codori Farm was apparently occupied at this time because an officer of another unit, Stannard's 2nd Vermont Brigade, mentioned an "old man" coming through the gate and requesting that the soldiers "not go through his wheat field" (which is what they immediately did, heading east to Cemetery Ridge, where they reported to Gen. Abner Doubleday). This is the only known mention of the Codori Farm on the first day of the battle.

The "old man" could have been Anthony Codori, out on the farm with his wife visiting his daughter, Catherine Staub, and his three young grandchildren. Interestingly, records show that on July 8 Catherine would deliver twins, so it is understandable why she would need someone to be with her at this time. Her husband, John, was away in the Federal army in Virginia with his regiment, the 165th Pennsylvania Infantry.

It is not known where Catherine and her family went after July 1st , but we can assume that they left, because no mention of civilians was made by the many soldiers who occupied the farm after this day.

By the next day, July 2, almost all the regiments of both armies were in Gettysburg. The Union Army of the Potomac numbered 95,000 and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, 75,000. The population of Gettysburg, normally around 7,000, was now diminished because many people had fled the area.

The two armies arranged themselves along two ridges, one south of town known as Seminary Ridge (Confederates) and Cemetery Ridge (Union), the area between being bisected by the Emmitsburg Road.

Gen. Lee had determined that he would attack his enemy on both flanks simultaneously, with Gen. Ewell hitting the Union Army at Culp's Hill on the right and Gen. Longstreet striking at Little Round Top on the left. Then he would order a staggered attack up the Emmitsburg Road. His objective was to break through the Union line on Cemetery Ridge.

Ewell did nothing until the evening of that day, which was then too little and too late. Longstreet also delayed his attack, saying he would like to wait for Pickett's Division, which had not yet arrived. Longstreet, affectionately known as "Old Pete" by his men, initially was holding out for a defensive strategy, the merits of which he could not convince Lee.

The waiting was difficult for soldiers on both sides, but especially so for Union Gen. Dan Sickles, who remembered all too well having to give up high ground the previous month at Chancellorsville, with disastrous consequences.

Now, studying the terrain at his place at the end of the Union line on Cemetery Ridge, he decided there was better position, with higher ground, approximately three-fourths of a mile in front of him at the Emmitsburg Road—and he determined that he would place his Third Corps there.

After requesting permission from Gen. Meade and receiving no positive reply, Sickles ordered his men forward anyhow, creating a salient, or bulge, in this part of the line.

Both of his flanks were now "in the air," with his line beginning at Devil's Den, running through John Sherfy's peach orchard, northward along the road, and ending at the Codori Farm.

Gen. Meade found out about Sickles's movement forward at the same time that Longstreet's artillery opened on Third Corps batteries in the peach orchard. There was

nothing else for Meade to do for the moment but to order reinforcements forward to help Sickles. Many men would die trying to back up Sickles's untenable position.

After a desperate struggle at Little Round Top and in the wheat field by Longstreet's men under Gen. Hood, Gen. William Barksdale's ferocious Mississippians were sent forward next. They hoped to break the Second Corps under Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock, which was stretched along the crest of Cemetery Ridge, on the eastern boundary of the Codori Farm.

At approximately six o'clock, Barksdale and his men rolled over the Federal troops in the peach orchard like a pack of wild animals, unhinging the Union's position from the wheat field to the center of their entire line, and ending up in the south end of Codori's property at Plum Run. Here they were finally stopped by Col. Willard's New York troops and Gen. Barksdale was mortally wounded.

To the rear and slightly southward from here was the 148th Pennsylvania Infantry. In this regiment were six descendants of Samuel Sloan, owner from 1805 to 1834 of the Manor of Maske property which became the Codori farm.

The 148th was sent to reinforce the Third Corps at the eastern edge of the wheat field. In the evening, after the day's battle had ended, the 148th went in on this segment of the Codori field and brought out the wounded, including Gen. Barksdale. The next day, July 3, this regiment was on Cemetery Ridge, and with a good view of the historic Sloan farm.

Now Gen. Cadmus Wilcox and his Alabama Brigade hurried forward. As they did so, they threatened to push through a gap that had opened when Union troops there had moved off to the wheat field.

Gen. Hancock, who was riding up and down the line shoring up any weaknesses, ordered in the men of the small-in-number but seasoned 1st Minnesota. The regiment, with bayonets drawn, quickly moved forward across Codori fields and crashed into the Alabamians near and within the Codori thicket.

After 20 minutes of fighting, only 47 men of the 1st Minnesota were left standing, but they had delayed the Rebels long enough for Hancock to send in more reinforcements to stop the Rebel advance.

Next, it was Gen. Ambrose Wright's turn to hammer the Union line, supported by Perry's Florida Brigade, commanded by Col. David Lang. Initially, Wilcox was successful, his brigade rolling over the Federals near the Codori house after a short fight.

The 82nd New York and the 15th Massachusetts had advanced to the road and prepared a defensive position by piling up a barricade of fence rails behind it, with the 15th just north of the Codori House, and the 82nd's right flank left of the house.

PREP SCHOOLMATES MEET AGAIN

One of the casualties this day (July 2nd) was James P. Norton of the 8th Alabama who, just before the war, had attended Mount St. Mary's Prep. School in Emmitsburg, Maryland with Nicholas Codori's son, George. Norton knew that a war was coming and he opted to go back home and enlist as a private.

He fought in nine battles before arriving at Gettysburg with Wilcox's Brigade, to fight over land on the southern part of the Codori Farm. His military records show that 20-year-old Norton was "wounded and left in the enemies' hands at the Battle of Gettysburg, July 2, 1863." He was first taken to Letterman (Field) Hospital outside of Gettysburg and was then transferred to the U.S. Army Hospital in York.

Apparently George Codori had found out about James's wound and had visited him there. The two friends exchanged letters and James repeatedly beseeched George to "send him a few dollars" because he said he had had to buy food to survive. He wrote that ever since he was taken to the hospital he "didn't get one quarter enough to eat."

James also wrote the President of his old school, Mount St. Mary's. A letter from a Chaplain at the York army hospital to the President, dated Jan. 21,1864, tells of James's sad end:

> "I regret to inform you that (James P. Norton) died on Monday morning about 9 o'clock. He seemed to do well until recently when he was taken with diarrhea that ran him down. His system was too frail for what it was called to endure. Whilst here he received the same humane and Christian treatment as our own brave men, and so far as I know, lacked for nothing." James, being an orphan, was buried by his friends in the cemetery of Mt. St. Mary's.

The 82nd had orders to burn the Codori buildings. They never got the chance, however, because they were surprised by the approach of Wright's men, who were hidden from view by tall grass until the last moment. Confusion reigned and many men of the 15th were taken prisoners.

After dispensing with the 82nd New York and the 15th Massachusetts, Wright's men turned their attention to the six guns of Brown's battery that were positioned on a slight rise behind the Codori house. A desperate and bloody struggle ensued with four of the six guns being dragged back up Cemetery Ridge by the Yankees.

The Georgians followed and some reports say that they actually breached the stone wall of Cemetery Ridge at the rear of Codori's property. This triumph was short-lived as Wright now discovered that his brigade was unsupported. Lang had fallen back on his right, most of Posey's Brigade never got much farther than the Bliss farm buildings, and Mahone never started forward.

As the beleaguered Confederates neared the stone wall, they were charged by the 106th Pennsylvania, who pushed them back down to the Emmitsburg Road near the Codori house, recapturing Brown's abandoned two cannons and 20 men.

Nearing the barn and house, they found a large force of Confederates from which an officer emerged, waving a handkerchief of truce. This was Captain Snead of the 48th Georgia, who said that his regiment's commander, Col. William Gibson, was "dangerously wounded and would die for want of attention; that nearly the whole regiment stood by him" and asked that their Colonel be taken to a Union field hospital.

Captain Ford said he would be glad to oblige, but he would require that the regiment's officers give up their arms and surrender all their men. Captain Snead strenuously protested at first, but soon capitulated and handed over himself and approximately 200 soldiers of the 48th, effectively making them all prisoners of war.

At least one soldier took refuge in the Codori farmhouse. Sgt. Magnitsky of the 20th Massachusetts received a gunshot wound in the left foot and succeeded in crawling into the house and hid himself as Wright's troops were coming.

As this long day drew to a close, the armies were realigned on their respective ridges, and the soldiers steeled themselves for what the next day might bring. Gen. Wright, in his After Action Report to Gen. Lee complained about the lack of support from Posey, Mahone, and Lang's Brigades and freely stated that had he had that support "I should have been able to maintain my position on the heights." Perhaps this reinforced Lee's resolve to again attack across Codori's fields on July 3.

The next day, July 3rd, dawned hot and muggy. The Confederate cannonade began about 1 p.m. For nearly two hours, upwards of 120 guns battered Cemetery Ridge, answered by over a hundred U.S. pieces. Both sides were hoping to incapacitate or at least weaken their opponent's artillery and in this, the South was more effective. Many rounds went over the crest of the ridge where the Union men lay pressed to the ground, and wreaked

havoc on the batteries, horses and equipment behind.

Union artillery responded more slowly, with fewer rounds, in order to conserve ammunition. Even so, the human damage done to the Confederate infantry was more costly. Many shells found their mark among the men of Pickett's Division who were waiting in battle order in Pitzer's Woods, just beyond their own artillery line.

At the end of the cannonade these Virginia veterans were to begin their three-quarter mile advance across Codori's fields and up Cemetery Ridge.

Finally, the time came. Longstreet, feeling that the assault would fail but duty bound to follow Lee's orders, regretfully ordered Pickett's Division forward. (Pettigrew's Division of North Carolinians would also assault Cemetery Ridge, north of the Codori Farm, at the same time.)

There had been skirmishing between the lines all morning prior to the Confederate assault. Pvt. William Clifford of the 19th Maine wrote to his father about this from Carver Hospital in Washington on August 10, 1863. He said that he was out in front of the main Union line on skirmish duty when he ducked in a barn (which was the Codori barn). He continued:

> "Capt. Fagler was there he told me I had better stay there too for my Co was down on the left of the line so I stayed till some time in the PM I was there during the artillery fire the batteries on both sides played right over the barn you have no idea of the scene it seemed as through the air was full of Devils such an unearthly noise and shell bursting all around us ploughing up the ground and some time some crashing in to the old barn that was rocking as though there was an earth quake under it after that was over I looked out and saw the Reb skirmishers advancing and behind them a large body in solid column soon we had the order to fall back we fell back loading and firing as we went to the line on came the Rebs ..."

According to post battle reports, the first objective of Pickett's brigades was an "old red barn along the Emmitsburg Road." This probably was the Codori red brick house; several contemporary accounts definitely describe the barn as wooden but not red.

As the Division crossed the Emmitsburg Road, they were met with a terrific barrage of shot and shell. In order to achieve their final objective, which was a copse of trees on the crest of Cemetery Ridge at the rear of the Codori property, Garnett's Brigade passed to the front of the Codori house and Kemper's, to the rear. Garnett would be killed near the stone wall.

In order to continue toward the trees,

Painting of Confederate Gen. Lewis Armistead, with his hat stuck on his upraised sword, bridged the stone wall before he was wounded and captured. He died July 5, 1863 in a Union Field Hospital.

Kemper had to order his regiment to turn left, which then exposed his right flank to the waiting Union soldiers on the ridge. Targeted by the 1,800 men of Stannard's 2nd Vermont Brigade, Kemper's men were being shot down *en masse*. Kemper himself went down, wounded, sometime after passing the Codori buildings; conflicting reports make it difficult to determine exactly how far beyond them he went.

Following orders from Hancock, Stannard had ordered his men 300 yards forward of the Union line in order to meet the onrush of the assault. After they blasted Kemper's unfortunate soldiers as they passed by on their way to the copse of trees, they turned to the left and decimated Wilcox's and Lang's Brigades who were coming up in a belated attempt to support Kemper and Garnett.

Gen. Lewis Armistead's Brigade followed Garnett's up to the ridge where Armistead, with his hat stuck on his upraised sword, bridged the stone wall. He was shot in the arm and leg, captured, and taken to the Union field hospital where he died of exhaustion on July 5. He had been a close personal friend of Union Gen. Hancock, whose line he had penetrated.

As the assault continued, and the men in grey got closer and closer to the wall, more and more Confederates were being wounded. Some of them, including two brothers from the 8th Virginia managed to make it back to the Codori farmhouse. There, in the cellar, they found a half dozen or more wounded Virginians and about the same number of Yankees, probably skirmishers.

An uneasy truce existed while the battle raged on. Here they stayed and listened intently for some evidence that the battle had ended, each man hoping his side would be victorious.

Finally, a faint cheer was heard. Major Berkeley of the 8th Virginia thought it sounded like the "Rebel yell," and informed the Yankees that they were now his prisoners. But the Yankees, recognizing the lower pitched Union "Huzzah" set him straight: "Not at all. You are ours."

There is no evidence that either the Codori house or barn was used as a hospital after the battle; the farm buildings were too close to the Union line for Confederate use, and Union field hospitals had already been established well behind their own lines. What has been documented, however, is that the Codori farm went from farmland—to battlefield—to burial ground—in three days.

After the wounded were removed the burials began. Pvt. Willie Mitchel, Color Guard with the 1st Virginia Infantry, was buried very near the Codori buildings. His mother, Jane Mitchel, wrote to her surviving son, James, regarding his brother's burial:

> (Charles Joice said that) after the battle he and three others were going on the field looking for wounded soldiers. And that they found Willie rolled in a blanket pinned with three pins, that his face had been washed and there was a slip of paper pinned to the blanket with his name, 'W. J. Mitchel son of the Irish patriot'—with the help of a colored man they dug a grave on the banks of a small cabin so close that no plow would ever disturb it—and laid him there and took the paper and fastened it to a piece of cracked board and hammered it there at the head of the grave. It was near a little brick house that the body was found. (This was the Codori house.)

Col. Joseph Wasden, commander of the 22nd Georgia Infantry, was killed during his regiment's advance with Wright's Brigade on the 2nd of July. Col. Horatio Rogers of the 2nd Rhode Island was on picket duty with his regiment on July Fourth and later gave this account of finding Wasden's body:

Many dead lay on the Emmitsburg Road in front of us, and just opposite the right of the regiment, stretched at full length, was the lifeless form of a Confederate colonel. His was a fine manly figure and he was smitten down in the prime of life. It was ascertained from a Masonic Certificate in his pocket that his name was Joseph Wasden, and that he was a member of Franklin Lodge, No. 11, of Warrenton, Georgia. Thereupon it was determined that this deceased brother, an enemy in life, that had been stricken down far from home and loved ones, should be buried by fraternal hands, and the Blue uniforms gathered round the gray, and a squad of the second Rhode Island under the direction of Capt. Thomas Foy, raised the inanimate form in their arms and bore it carefully two or three hundred yards to the right where they tenderly and reverently buried it on the south side of Codori's barn ...

Capt. Foy recalled in later years that,

> In that barn there were a lot of wounded Rebels, a part of whom claimed to be members of Wasden's Regiment. I requested them if they lived to get home, to inform the friends of Col. Wasden that he was decently buried and by a Mason.

The grave was marked with the top of an ammunition box upon which was carved a Masonic emblem along with his name, rank and regiment. The tenant farmer who lived there, probably D. A. Riley, erected a small fence around the grave and tended it. It was a much visited site on the Battlefield until 1872, when Wasden's remains were removed to a Savannah, Georgia cemetery along with those of other Georgia soldiers.

Most graves were not marked, and the exact number of Confederate graves on the Codori farm and, indeed, the Battlefield, will never be known. It should be no surprise that it's believed that more Southern soldiers were buried on Codori property (500 plus) than on any other farm on the Battlefield.

Nothing is recorded about Nicholas Codori's family activities during the battle. Family lore says, however, that John Chrismer, husband of Suzanne Codori (daughter of George Codori), ran a bakery on York Street, and during the battle the family hid in the basement of the Nicholas Codori home at 44 York Street. A bullet entered the basement window and hit the crib or bed where their second son, Charles, was sleeping, narrowly missing his head. His father, John, made trips back and forth across the street to check on his family while baking bread, which was later sold to the soldiers.

Nicholas Codori home at 44 York Street, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

At some point—either before, during or after the battle—at least eight Gettysburg civilians were captured by the Confederates and taken South to prisons for the duration of the war. One of these hapless men was 57-year-old George A. Codori. The exact circumstances of his capture are not known.

One Codori family story relates that George was returning from Baltimore, where he had delivered a Gettysburg-made carriage, when he was arrested by Rebel cavalrymen. They apparently considered him a Yankee soldier because he was wearing a Union jacket. It is likely that it may have belonged to his son, Nicholas J., who had served in the Army the year before. George was said to have been first taken to Richmond and then to Salisbury Prison in North Carolina.

WHERE WAS GENERAL PICKETT AT THE CHARGE?

The controversy over where Gen. Pickett was during the assault has never been laid to rest. He was purportedly seen at various places which included: hiding in the Codori barn, beside the Codori barn, way back in Pitzer's woods and down near the Peach Orchard. The truth may be that he was in several of these places instead of any one of them alone. (It is this researcher's humble opinion that one place the flamboyant General was not was "hiding" in the Codori barn.)

George may have been captured after the Battle. An account of his and his wife's July Fourth activities was recorded by their great-great-granddaughter, Annie McSherry, who owned what had been her great-great-grandparent's house at 59 West Middle Street in 1913. She said she understood that her grandparents

> fled the town when it was overrun by Confederates on July 1 and sought shelter at the Culp Farm outside of town.
>
> The Culps were friends from whom the Codoris had bought their home. Returning after the Rebels fled on the night of the 4th of July, they discovered a wounded Confederate hiding in their home whom they took pity on and assisted to rejoin his fleeing comrades.

It may have been sometime after this event that George was captured and sent to Richmond. He spent nearly two years in Rebel prisons and didn't return home until March 20, 1865. By March 27, he was dead of pneumonia, and in April his wife also died.

George's older brother, Anthony Codori, died in 1866. Of the three immigrant Codori brothers, only Nicholas remained, and prospered after the war as one of the best butchers in the area.

In 1868 Nicholas sold his Emmitsburg Road farm to D. A. Riley. It was useless for farming purposes because it was now a mass grave for Confederate soldiers. However, by 1872, all of the remains that could be located were removed from the fields and shipped south and Nicholas bought the farm back.

Also, in 1872, Nicholas wrote his will. He intended to leave his slaughtering business to his youngest son, Simon, who worked with him in that trade, as well as some real estate, including part of his Emmitsburg Road farm, west of the road. (Incidentally, in 1876 the Codoris moved their slaughtering operation from town to the farm.)

To his oldest son, George, he wished to leave the part of the farm, including house and buildings east of the Emmitsburg Road, as well as other real estate. His wife was to have the house on York Street that she and Nicholas lived in as well as these items, per year: $300, two cows, sufficient pasture and feed for them, two 250 pound hogs, and one hind quarter of beef.

Nicholas died in 1878. A local newspaper article entitled "Shocking Accident" tells the sad tale:

> On Monday last Mr. Nicholas Codori, the well-known butcher of this place, met with a terrible accident from a mowing machine, which may prove fatal. After breakfast he hitched up a favorite young colt team on a spring wagon and drove out to his farm a short distance southwest of town, in-

tending to mow a field of grass, and transferred the colt team from the spring wagon to the mower. It was a sprightly team and had never been hitched to the mower. The rattle of the machine frightened the team, which started to run, and Mr. Codori was thrown from his seat in front of or on the knives. Sometime after, probably a half an hour, Mr. Butt, the tenant, noticed the team and mower standing up in the orchard some distance from the grass field. He went over, secured the team and then went in search of Mr. Codori, who was found sitting in the grass, with his right foot severed from the leg immediately above the ankle, and shockingly cut and injured in the groin. Strange to say, Mr. Codori was not only sensible, but showed self possession and composure, giving orders that he be driven to town and directing his missing foot to be brought with him. He was put in the spring wagon, and remained in a sitting posture, saluting with his usual pleasant greeting acquaintances met on the way. He directed the driver to drive to Dr. Horner's, told the Doctor he had lost a leg and wanted his services at his residence.

The bones of the leg above the ankle, where the limb had been severed by the mower, being splintered, it was found necessary to amputate the leg below the knee. The wounds about the groin were also dressed.. The latter are the most serious, and from them the most danger is apprehended. Not withstanding Mr. Codoris vigorous constitution, his injuries are such as to excite grave apprehensions as to the results.

Everyone's fears were realized; Nicholas Codori died the following week.

Interestingly, he apparently dictated a Codicil to his Will three days before he died when he realized his demise was inevitable. It stated, in part, that he was taking away much of what he had planned to give his son, George, in his will, leaving him with some property, but not the Emmitsburg Road farm.

The Codicil dictated that his youngest son "Simon is to hold the property given his brother, George, in trust and so that George cannot make away with it or spend it." Furthermore: "if George should commence any law suit in regard to my estate all the legacies and devises to him (are) to be forfeited and go to Simon."

George died five years later in 1883 at age 48, and most of his family moved to the Emmitsburg, Maryland area.

Simon continued to prosper in his butchering business, now conducted from his Emmitsburg Road farm. He and his wife, however, continued to live in town, moving into his mother's York Street house upon her death in 1889.

When Simon died in 1898 he left most of his considerable property to his eldest son (he had ten children). He also warned in his will about the consequences should any of his other children try to contest the will, and directed that $300 be paid by his wife for Masses at their Catholic church for the repose of his soul.

REBEL YELL? NO, IT'S YANKEE HUZZAH

July 3,1863: After Gen. Armistead was wounded, the assault continued. As the men in gray got closer and closer to the wall, more and more Confederates were being wounded. Some of them, including two brothers from the 8th Virginia, managed to make it back to the Codori farmhouse. There, in the cellar, they found half a dozen or more wounded Virginians and about the same number of Yankees, probably skirmishers.

An uneasy truce existed while the battle raged on. Here they stayed and listened intently for some evidence that the battle had ended, each man hoping his side would be victorious. Finally, a faint cheer was heard. Major Berkeley of the 8th Virginia thought it sounded like the "Rebel yell," and informed the Yankees that they were now his prisoners. But the Yankees, recognizing the lower-pitched Union "huzzah" set him straight: "Not at all. You are ours."

A rear addition to the brick house on the farm had been built in 1877, just before Nicholas's death. [She showed some slides of the house and barn.]

William F. Redding and family were the tenants on this farm from 1889 to 1942, at which time the first National Park Service superintendent moved in. I got a glimpse of what life was like during the Redding's tenancy when I interviewed Katie Bixler, now 98. Katie was the "hired girl" on the farm from 1913 to 1942.

Simon's widow sold the farm in 1894 to land speculators and it was then sold to Gettysburg National Military Park in 1907. The park had been a popular tourist destination since just after the battle, and the townspeople had created all sorts of side attractions to interest the visitors.

Battlefield preservation is a relatively new idea. People in the early years of this century looked at battlefields as curiosities and amusement parks and were not concerned about desecrating sacred soil.

For instance, a railroad track was constructed from the town of Gettysburg out to Little Round Top, one of the most famous parts of the battlefield , cutting diagonally through the Codori Farm, just in back of the house. At Little Round Top Park in the late 1800s there was a picnic and dance pavilion, complete with orchestra, a portrait studio, a souvenir and refreshment stand.

By 1913 a casino had been added to make money off of the 6,000 soldiers that were stationed at the U.S. Military Camp at Gettysburg. This camp was located south of town, largely on Codori Farm land, at the request of the leading citizens of Gettysburg.

In 1918 this camp was called Camp Colt, and the future Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, then a Captain, was its commander. Camp Colt had all the modern amenities of the day, including a swimming pool dug right in front of the 15th Massachusetts monument up on Cemetery Hill behind the Codori Farm!

Camp Colt was dismantled after World War I and the Codori property again became a working farm. Mr. Redding was still the tenant—he and his family had lived there during the Camp Colt years—but this time instead off renting from the Codori family, his landlord was the U.S. government, who owned the Military Park.

The veterans came back to Gettysburg for reunions in 1913 and 1938, and although they didn't camp on the Codori Farm, a few of the hardier ones went out there to recreate Pickett's Charge. This time, however, instead of bullets greeting the Confederates as they approached the old stone wall, grizzled Union vets cheered them on and rewarded them with a handshake.

The descendants of Nicholas Codori have always been involved in the local business scene. Richard Codori, my original contact for this project, owns an upscale gift shop located on the town square. Jim and Phillip Cole are Licensed Battlefield Guides. And Jim Codori owns Codori Memorials, a monument company, which has created and set many of the recent stone monuments on the battlefield.

In July of this year he will set the foundation for the bronze equestrian statue of Gen. Longstreet sculpted by Gary Casteel. The statue will be placed in Pitzer's Woods, just beyond the Codori farm. From this vantage point Longstreet will forever scan the Codori fields as he orders Pickett forward.

The Codori Farm, once battlefield, then burial ground, has reverted back to farmland—and farmland it remains. It is, however, so much more. This farm, which witnessed the ushering of so many souls from this world to the next in July of 1863, is an American shrine.

WCHS DOLLS GO TO VALENTINE TEA AT KEMPF HOUSE

Several WCHS dolls joined the Kempf House doll and a French doll for the annual Valentine "Dolls' Tea Party" at Kempf House and are staying on exhibit through March 29.

In our loan are Miss Emily, a recent donation from Louis Doll; two dolls from the Marie Louise Douglas estate; one given by Mrs. Richard Townsend and two owned by a Mrs. L.L. French in 1915.

Also on temporary loan from WCHS are a toy walnut drop leaf table, two small Windsor chairs, made as part of a WPA project, a child's rocker, donated by Doris Anna Bach and other small chairs.

The doll exhibit may be seen from 1-4 p.m. at weekend open houses or during the Wednesday noon lectures which begin March 4.

Even though WCHS has never had a museum, the Society has displayed items from its collection at every opportunity, either through loans to other museums or temporary exhibits.

AROUND THE COUNTY

Dexter Historical Society: 25th annual Craft Fair Saturday, March 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Mill Creek Middle School, 7305 Dexter-Ann Arbor Road.

More than 50 artists, selected by jury, will demonstrate and sell their historic and ethnic crafts. Girl Scouts will serve lunch 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Bake sale. Music by Celtic Ramble and hammered dulcimer player.

Salem Society: 6 p.m. Thursday, Salem Township Hall, potluck supper, annual meeting. Program: Show and Tell.

Webster Society: 7:45 p.m. Monday, April 13, at home of Dan and Linda Chapman, 3430 Zeeb Road. Program: "Old Toy Trains," by Dan Chapman.

Ypsilanti Society: Museum, 220 N. Huron St., open 2-4 p.m. Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Archives open 9 a.m.-noon Monday-Friday.

HAVE YOU JOINED FOR 1998?

Please check your mailing label to see if you have paid 1998 dues.

If not, please send name, address and phone number with check or money order payable to WCHS Membership, c/o Patty Creal, Treasurer, P.O. Box 3336, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336.

Annual dues are individual, $15; couple/family $25; student or senior (60+), $10; senior couple, $19; business/association, $50; patron, $100. Information: 662-9092.

WCHS PLANNING STAINED GLASS TOUR JUNE 13

WCHS is planning a stained glass tour of some Detroit churches for the annual bus tour Saturday, June 13. Barbara Krueger, coordinator of the Michigan Stained Glass Census, will narrate the tour.

The J. F. Ervin Foundation of Ann Arbor is the co-sponsor of this issue of *Washtenaw Impressions.*

NOTE OF THANKS

Raymond Warzynski, husband of Esther, who is past vice-president and long-time active member of the WCHS Board of Directors, passed away January 19, 1998.

The Board made a memorial contribution to the museum fund in his memory at its February meeting.

Esther asked us to convey her sincere thanks and that she is deeply grateful also for Society members words of condolence and encouragement at this time.

WCHS HAS 70% OF POINTS NEEDED FOR MEMORY BOOK

WCHS now has 14,078 Bill Knapp's Restaurant points, 70% of the 20,000 needed for a memory book to record names of donors to our Museum on Main Street.

Anyone who eats at Knapp's may request a yellow points slip from the cashier each time. One point is given for each dollar spent. Please give or send to Alice Ziegler, 537 Riverview Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

YPSI'S AUTOMOTIVE HERITAGE APRIL TOPIC

A visit to Ypsilanti's Automotive Heritage Museum and a talk about its "Automotive Heritage" are on tap for the WCHS meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 19.

Editor: Alice Ziegler, 663-8826
Address: 537 Riverview Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Mailing: Pauline Walters, 663-2379
WCHS Office: (313) 662-9092
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WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Post Office Box 3336
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WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HISTORY OF SHOPPING MALLS

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